

2009
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
WATTS MOUNTAIN C&H
6/11 TO 10/15

Introduction

These annual operating instructions are made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1 item 3 and Part 2, item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing season which require changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

Please remember that your grazing fees must be paid prior to grazing on the allotment. We will need confirmation of your payment before your cattle enter the allotment. If you have not received your grazing billing for this season, please call. When you send your grazing fees, write the billing number on the upper left corner of your check. This will insure your payment is properly credited.

Grazing Schedule:

SOUTH DIVISION

Units

1. Big Bench
2. Lewis Hollow
3. Indian Creek
4. Rest Dry Hollow

NORTH DIVISION

Units

1. Mud Springs
2. Peavine
3. Trail Spring

Permitted Cattle

The following numbers of cattle are permitted to graze from June 11 to October 15.

<u>South Division</u>	<u>CATTLE</u> <u>#'s</u>	<u>HEAD</u> <u>MONTH's</u>	<u>Tags: White</u> <u>(issued 2008)</u>
Missouri Flat	420	1748	1-406
<u>North Division:</u>			<u>Tags:blue</u> <u>(issued 2008)</u>
Missouri Flat	251	1063	9-322
Art Jensen Cattle Co.			
Private Land	<u>8</u>	<u>34</u>	1-8
	333	1410	
Allotment Total	753	3158	

Management on the Allotment

When grazing use in key areas in each unit reaches the grazing use standards described below cattle will be moved to the next unit scheduled for grazing. Be sure all cattle are moved and the gates closed. Fence maintenance must be completed and enough herding done to keep the cattle in the proper units and properly distributed. It is very important that the Dry Hollow unit is completely rested from grazing this year. All cattle are to be off the Forest by October 15, or when proper use is reached , whichever comes first.

Key areas for each unit scheduled for grazing this year are: **South Division;** BigBench Unit- Area around second pond to the south. Lewis Hollow Unit- Flat east of Butler Spring. Indian Creek Unit- Bottom of Indian Creek. **North Division;** Mud Spring Unit- Little Grass Valley area; Peavine Unit- Indian Flat; Trail Spring Unit- bottom of Trail Spring Canyon.

Riparian areas (wet areas) are also key areas for management. The Watts Mountain Allotment does have some of this land type. Where it occurs, we need to monitor it closely for grazing use. Once the cattle have grazed these areas to the Forest Plan use level, they will have to be removed from the unit or the allotment. It is important that you keep the cattle out of the wet areas as much as possible.

Grazing Use Standards

Maximum Allowable Forage Use Criteria		
Vegetation Type	Stubble Height/Use	Comments
Riparian Hydric Species	4"	Triggers the time to move livestock between units or off the allotment
Riparian Emphasis Management Areas	6"	Triggers the time to move livestock between units or off the allotment
Non-hydric Sod-Forming Grass Species in Riparian Areas	1 ½ "	Primarily Kentucky bluegrass--Triggers the time to move livestock between units or off the allotment
Wheatgrass Seedings	60%	Management option to exceed 60% use to maintain healthy seedings
Riparian/Upland Browse Sprouts and Young-Aged Plants	≤40%	# of current year's available twigs removed
Riparian/Upland Mature Browse	≤50%	# of current year's available twigs removed
Upland Grass/Forb	40-60% of key species; varies by grazing system and desired condition	% of current year's growth
Riparian Ground Cover	Maintain ground cover of at least 70% within riparian areas	

Maintenance of Improvements

North Division

The fences and water developments in the allotment must be maintained to standard before cattle enter the allotment.

Install ATV Cattleguard in fence between Watts Mtn and Cottonwood Allotments in Big Hollw

South Division

Fences and water developments in the Big Bench Unit must be maintained before cattle enter the allotment and in each succeeding unit before the cattle are moved.

We look forward to working with you this year and appreciate your cooperation in following this plan.

MEL F. BOLLING
District Ranger

cc: All permittees on the Watts Mountain C&H Allotment